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BOOK NEWS

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Book Explores the Roads Less Traveled in the Big Easy: Music, Art, Food, and More

LSU Press to publish third edition of Michael Patrick Welch's *New Orleans: The Underground Guide* in February 2014

"In this wonderfully quirky music- and art-focused book, Welch concentrates on his New Orleans—the New Orleans that he and his friends know. There is plenty of information on many aspects of artsy New Orleans: Mardi Gras festivities, literary New Orleans, art galleries, burlesque clubs, theater, comedy clubs, thrift stores and costume shops, record stores, as well as a discussion of the Mardi Gras Indians, profiles of local musicians, and even a chapter on family fun."—Chicago Tribune

Baton Rouge—Red beans and rice, trad jazz, and second lines are the Big Easy's calling cards, but beyond where the carriage rides and streetcars take you is a city brimming with genre-defying music, transnational cuisine, and pockets of wild, artistic locals that challenge preconceived notions of what it means to be New Orleans.

With a respectful nod to the traditional and a full embrace of the obscure, *New Orleans: The Underground Guide*, by Michael Patrick Welch with Brian Boyles, is a resource for discovering the city as it really is—as much brass bands and boas as it is bounce and bicycle tours. From a speakeasy in the Bywater neighborhood to the delightfully sketchy vibe of St. Roch Tavern, lead author Michael Patrick Welch uncovers an unexpected tableau of musicians, venues, and novel ways to pass the *bon temps*. The book, with photographs by Zack Smith and Jonathan Traviesa, is the perfect accessory for enjoying the city to its fullest.

Michael Patrick Welch is the author of several books. His writing has appeared in New Orleans rags like *Gambit Weekly* and *OffBeat*, and his freelance work has appeared in *Salon*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *McSweeney's*, *Oxford American*, and many other venues. He currently pens a column about New Orleans for *VICE* magazine. On the side, Welch teaches a music writing class for kids and is the leader of electro-rock-n-R&B band the White Beach.

Brian Boyles is creative director of The People Say Project and program director at the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. His work has been featured in *Oxford American*, *VICE*, *Louisiana Cultural Vistas*, and other publications.

February 2014 / 256 pages, 5 x 8 ½, 100 halftones, 8 maps
978-0-8071-5606-3 / Paper \$29.95, ebook available

New Orleans / Music / Travel
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